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<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-23, 32-42, and 44-52 were pending as of the action mailed on December 15, 2008. Claims 1, 20, 23, 32, 37-39, 42, 44, 47-49, and 52 are in independent form. This reply is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination.

Claims 1, 15-16, 20, 23, 32, 37-39, 42, 44, 47-49, and 52 are being amended for clarity. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification, for example, page 5, lines 3-21; page 5, line 25 to page 6, line 6; and in FIGS. 2a-2c.

Reconsideration of the action is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Interview

The applicant thanks the examiner for the courtesy of an in-person interview conducted on March 12, 2009. During the interview, features of the Eudora application relied on by the Examiner were presented and potential clarifying claim amendments were discussed in view of Eudora. No agreement was reached.

Section 102 Rejections

The examiner rejected 1-4, 6-7, 11, 15-16, 18, 32-33, 35, 37-38, 44-45, and 47-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Eudora® Email, User Manual for Windows, Version 5.1.1, 2001 by Qualcomm Inc., http://www.eudora.com/techsupport/kb/2350hq.html ("Eudora"). However, the examiner does not rely on the user manual. Instead, the examiner relies on redacted screenshots taken from Eudora version 5.1.1. The cited link corresponds to a download page for old Eudora installers and not a user manual. Thus, the applicant's remarks are primarily directed to the cited screenshots used by the examiner.

<u>Claim 1</u>

Claim 1, as amended, recites displaying a table of data as an element of a graphical user interface display and displaying a set of markers, each marker being associated with a row of the

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table or each marker being associated with a column of the table, the table of data having a plurality of sort keys having a specified sort key order including a most significant sort key, each sort key being a row or each sort key being a column of the table, each sort key having a sort direction, each sort key having a position in the sort key order.

Claim 1 further recites establishing the row or column associated with the user-selected marker as the most significant sort key in the sort key order in response to the input gesture including maintaining the sort direction from the sort key order, and maintaining the positions and the sort directions of the two or more remaining sort keys in the sort key order.

The examiner states that Eudora describes the claimed maintaining the position in a sort key order and direction of sort keys after establishing a most significant sort key. The cited screenshot from Eudora shows two columns of an email application, specifically a "who" column and a "size" column. Eudora, however, only maintains a sort order for the sort key selected immediately prior to the established most significant sort key. If additional sort keys are provided, the establishment of a most significant sort key only maintains a sort direction of the previously selected most significant sort key (i.e., only one lesser significant sort key is maintained). The cited screenshots from Eudora do not disclose or suggest a specified sort key order and maintaining the sort order and direction for the other sort keys beyond the second.

Moreover, the previously selected sort key is always the second sort key in the sort key order. Therefore, when there is more than one remaining sort key in Eudora, the sort keys do not maintain a specified order, but change based on which sort key was previously selected relative to the most significant sort key.

For example, if there are three columns in Eudora: "who", "date", and "size", a selection of a first sort key (e.g., "size") sorts the email according to that column. Selecting a second sort key (e.g., "who"), sorts the email by sender and then by size. However, the other remaining lesser sort key ("date" column) does not maintain any sort direction. Further, the sort key order is not maintained because the immediately preceding column always becomes the second sort key. Thus, selection of the most significant sort key following a different column selection changes the second sort key such that only those two sort keys are sorted.

More particularly, in order to sort more than two sort keys, a special "complex sorting" process is required. Eudora's complex sorting requires additional user inputs to establish each

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individual sort key and therefore fails to disclose or suggest using a single user input gesture to establish the most significant sort key and maintain the order and direction of the remaining two or more sort keys.

By contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites two or more remaining sort keys in addition to the established most significant sort key. The relative positions in the sort key order and sort directions of these remaining sort keys are maintained. Eudora does not disclose or suggest maintaining the order and direction of multiple less significant sort keys.

Claim 1 also recites establishing the row or column as the most significant sort key in the sort order including maintaining the sort direction from the sort key order. Thus, when a row or column becomes the most significant sort key, the sort direction identified in the sort key order is preserved. In Eudora, by contrast, when a column is selected a default sort order (sort ascending) is always applied to the column. Thus, the cited portions of Eudora do not disclose or suggest maintaining the sort direction from the sort key order when establishing a column or row as the most significant sort key.

The applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is allowable over Eurdora. Claims 2-19 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons.

Claim 11

Claim 11 recites determining whether the user-selected marker is associated with the most significant key. If the user-selected marker is associated with the most significant key, a sort direction of the most significant key is changed. If the user-selected marker is not associated with the most significant key, the row or column associated with the user-selected marker is established as the most significant sort key and the positions and the sort directions of the remaining sort keys in the sort key order are maintained.

The examiner states that Eudora discloses changing a sort direction of a most significant key if the user-selected marker is associated with the most significant key. The applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, the examiner states "pg. 2-3 "who" column is not most significant". However, this statement by the examiner contradicts the condition where the user selected marker is associated with the most significant key. Regardless, the cited portion of Eudora does not disclose or suggest changing the sort direction of the most significant sort key in

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response to a user marker selection that would otherwise establish the most significant sort key. Selecting the "who" column again after it has been selected as the most significant sort key does not change the sort direction (e.g., from ascending to descending). To change the sort direction in Eudora, a different user input is required than the input to select a sort key (i.e., changing sort direction of the most significant sort key requires a different user input than the user input establishing a most significant sort key). *See* Eudora screenshot 4 illustrating a right click operation on the most significant key to change the sort order.

Figures 1 and 2 below illustrate screenshots taken from the same version of Eudora relied upon by the examiner. In each figure, the same two columns have been reproduced as used by the examiner: "who" and "size". In Figure 1, the "who" column is selected as the most significant sort key. The sort direction is shown by the arrow indicating an ascending alphabetical order.
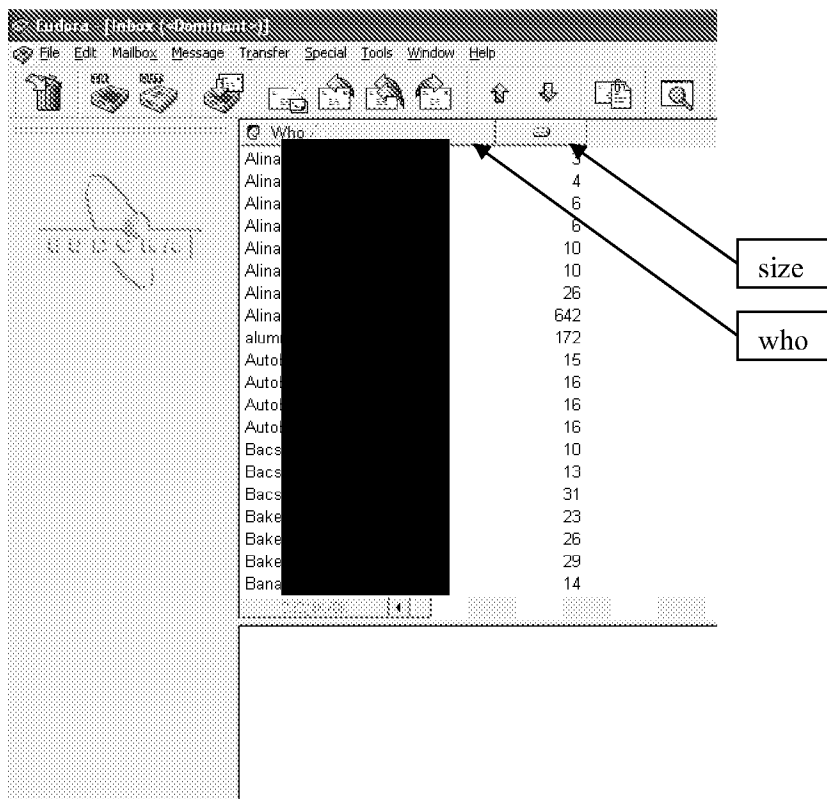

Figure 1

In Figure 2, the "who" column has been selected again. The arrow disappears, but the sort direction has not changed. The senders are still sorted in the ascending alphabetical order.
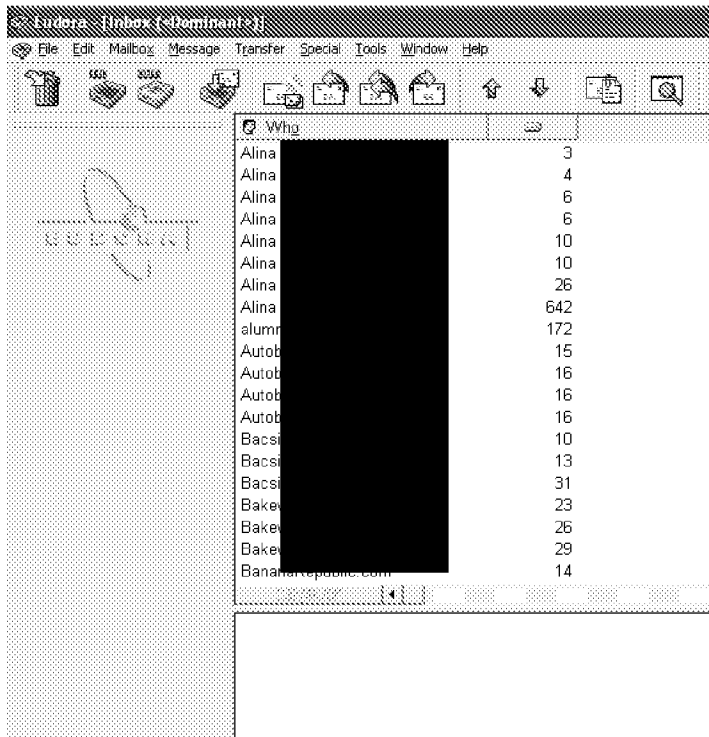
Figure 2

Thus, in Eudora, selecting the most significant sort key marker does not change the sort direction. Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that Eudora does not disclose or suggest changing the sort direction of the most significant sort key when the user selected marker is associated with the most significant key. Claim 11 is allowable for at least this additional reason.

Claim 16

Claim 16 recites instructions to determine whether a row or column associated with a user-selected marker is associated with a sort key in the sort key order, and when the row or column is a sort key that is not in the sort key order, removing the least significant sort key from the sort key order, adding the row or column associated with the user-selected marker as the to the sort key order as the most significant sort key.

The examiner states that Eudora discloses removing a least significant sort key from a sort key order. The cited screenshot from Eudora shows a mail interface with two columns, "who" and "size", displayed. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a sort key that has been removed from the sort order.

Furthermore, claim 16 requires a determination as to whether a row or column associated with a user-selected marker is associated with a sort key in the sort key order having a predetermined number of sort keys. The least significant sort key is removed when the sort key associated with the user-selected marker is not in the sort key order. Eudora does not disclose or suggest removing the least significant sort key based on the determination, therefore Eudora does not disclose making the determination as required by claim 16.

The examiner further states that since the user selects which mailbox columns to display, the number of sort keys is always predetermined. *See* Office Action, page 17. Additionally, the examiner states that the user can remove sort keys based on this selection. *See id.* However, the specification of mailbox columns to display only specifies the displayed sort keys. This does not disclose or suggest removing a least significant sort key based on a determination of whether there is a predetermined number of sort keys of the sort key order and a selected marker is not associated with a sort key in the sort key order. The examiner's checkbox window cannot satisfy these features of claim 16.

In particular, in Eudora, if the user specifies a particular number of sort keys, those sort keys are presented in the table. There is no disclosure or suggestion that a user selecting a first set of sort keys in the column selection window results the claimed determination or removal of a least significant sort key. Furthermore, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a sort key order in the column selection window. Thus, there is no disclosure that the least significant sort key is removed. This requires a determination of the sort key order for all selected column boxes to identify which is the least significant sort key and therefore the one to remove. The cited portions of Eudora fail to do this. The applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 32 and 44

Claims 32 and 44 include features corresponding to those of claim 1 and were rejected for the same reasons. For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, the applicant respectfully submits that claims 32 and 44, as well as claims 33-36 and 45-46, which depend from claims 32 and 44, respectively, are in condition for allowance.

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Claims 37 and 47

Claims 37 and 47 recite determining whether the user-selected marker is associated with the most significant key in the sort key order and if the user-selected marker is associated with the most significant key in the sort key order, changing a sort direction of the most significant key, and if the user-selected marker is not associated with the most significant key, establishing the row or column associated with the user-selected marker as the most significant sort key including maintaining the sort direction from the sort key order, and maintaining the positions and the sort directions of two or more remaining sort keys in the sort key order. For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 11, the applicant respectfully submits that claims 37 and 47 are in condition for allowance.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 5 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Eudora. Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Eudora in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,704,051 ("Lane"). Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Eudora in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,006,722 ("Adelson"). Claims 12, 13, 20, 34, 39, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Eudora in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,586,311 ("Davies"). Claims 21, 40, and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Eudora, in view of Davies, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,396,621 ("MacGregor"). Claims 14, 22, 41, and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Eudora in view of Davies and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,706,449 ("Liu"). Claims 17, 36, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Eudora in view of Davies and in further view Liu. Claims 23, 42, and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Eudora in view of Davies and in further view of MacGregor.

Claim 17

Claim 17 was rejected over Eudora, Davies, and Liu. Claim 17 recites instructions to receive from the user an input gesture deselecting a marker associated with an intermediate sort key of at least three sort keys and remove the sort key associated with the deselected marker

from the sort key order while maintaining the positions and the sort directions of the remaining sort keys in the sort key order.

The examiner states that Liu discloses deselecting a marker associated with a sort key and removing the sort key at col. 6, line 6-21 and FIGS. 13-14. The applicant respectfully disagrees. Liu discloses a display that includes a number of columns having the headings person number, first name, last name, department, and telephone number. *See* FIG. 2. The display also includes a multi-value field control and a sort order control. *See* col. 4, lines 40-41; col. 5, lines 45-48; and FIG. 13. The sort order control identifies different sort criteria for data. *See* col. 5, lines 46-52. The sort order control includes checkboxes for controlling the number and order of the sort criteria. *See* col. 5, line 65 to col. 6, line 30.

However, the sort order control refers to different data than the table sort keys. In particular, the sort options in the control do not correspond to the sort keys in the table. *See* FIGS. 13-14. Claim 17 requires an input gesture that deselects a marker associated with an intermediate sort key. Claim 1, from which claim 17 depends, recites that each sort key is a row or a column of a table.

Thus, not only does the identified sort order control identify wholly different sort information than the sort keys of the table, the user input to the sort order control does not select any sort key that is a column or row of the table, as required by claims 1 and 17. Furthermore, the examiner is relying on a different disclosure of a different reference to teach the claimed markers than previously used for the markers in claim 1, from which claim 17 depends. Applicant respectfully submits that the examiner must consistently reject claim features. Consequently, Liu fails to disclose or suggest receiving from the user an input gesture deselecting a marker associated with an intermediate sort key of at least three sort keys and remove the sort key associated with the deselected marker from the sort key order while maintaining the positions and the sort directions of the remaining sort keys in the sort key order. The applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 is allowable.

Claims 20, 39, and 49

Claims 20, 39, and 49 were rejected over Eudora and Davies. Claims 20, 39, and 49 recite establishing a row or column associated with a user-selected marker as a most significant

sort key in a sort key order in response to the input gesture including maintaining a sort direction from the sort key order, and maintaining the positions and the sort directions of two or more remaining sort keys in the sort key order. The examiner rejected this feature for the same reasons as claim 1. Davies does not disclose or suggest the claimed establishing a row or column as a most significant sort key. Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that claims 20, 39, and 49 are allowable for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, claims 21-22, 40-41, and 50-51, which depend from claims 20, 39, and 49, respectively, are also allowable.

Additionally, the examiner states that neither Eudora nor Davies disclose establishing the row or column associated with the user-selected marker as a sort key having a position in a sort key order defined by the location within the area in response to the input gesture, but that MacGregor discloses this feature in FIG. 6(b). The applicant respectfully disagrees. FIG. 6(b) of MacGregor shows a dialog window that allows a user to manually identify particular cells of a grid to be sorted in a particular sort order. MacGregor does not disclose or suggest markers in a region of graphical user interface. Moreover, MacGregor does not disclose or suggest a sort order based on a location of the dragged markers. The applicant respectfully submits that claims 23, 42, and 52 are in condition for allowance for at least this additional reason.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the applicant submits that all the claims are in condition for allowance.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the examiner, the applicant does not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, the applicant's selecting some particular arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist. Finally, the applicant's decision to amend or cancel any claim should not be understood as implying that the applicant agrees with any positions taken by the examiner with respect to that claim or other claims.

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Respectfully submitted,

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